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大学英语四级阅读

100 篇

周玲 莫端 主编



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前 言

根据《大学英语教学大纲》和《大学英语考试大纲》的教学与考试要求,阅读理解都是比较重要的,在大学四、六级考试中占分比例也较大。为加强学生的阅读理解能力的培养,扩大学生的知识面,我们组织了一些具有丰富的教学经验,多次指导过大学英语四级考试的老师编写了这本《大学英语四级阅读 100 篇》。

本书与同类书相比,具有以下特点:1. 针对性强,实用性强。紧扣四级考试题型,对提高大学生,特别是参加四级考试的学生的英语阅读应试能力有很大帮助。2. 选材广泛,可读性强,能扩大读者的知识面。3. 选编科学,深入浅出,循序渐进。4. 注解详实,可帮助学生学到许多英语习惯用法。每日在繁忙的学习中,只须阅读书中的一篇文章,边学边练,日积月累,一定能收到事半功倍的效果。本书编写分工为:

周 玲 莫 瑞 阅读文章 1—84 篇。

骆建军 许蓓蓓 阅读文章 85—100 篇。

编写时参考了国内外有关文献资料,在此对原作者表示感谢。由于时间仓促和编者水平有限,书中难免有不足之处,欢迎广大读者提出宝贵意见。

编者于 2002 年 10 月 10 日

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Part One Reading

Passage 1

Many changes are taking place in the way in which men and women look at their roles in society. We see these changes most **dramatically**^① in job and business situations. It is no longer unusual to find a male nurse or a female construction worker. Years ago, however, a man who worked as a nurse would have been looked down upon for doing “a woman’s job,” and a female construction worker would have been **hooted off**^② the construction site by her male coworkers. However dramatic these changes are, they are not as important as the changes that have taken place between men’s and women’s roles in family life.

The fact that so many women today have entered the job market and are building independent careers for themselves has altered the traditional family structure in many ways. **For one thing**^③, household work that used to be done by women is now often shared equally by men and women. Men have discovered at last that they too are capable of preparing the family dinner, rather than thinking that they are only capable of taking out the garbage.

Perhaps the greatest change that has taken place in the family is in parents’ new attitudes toward **bringing up**^④ children. While it is true that only mothers can **breast-feed**^⑤ their infants, nowhere is it written that fathers can’t bathe their own babies or change **diapers**^⑥.



And more and more of them are doing just that. These days, being a full-time parent is a job that fathers and mothers both share.

As a result of these changes, men and women are more aware of **sexual**^⑦ **stereotypes**^⑧ in their own lives : No longer do we insist that little boys play with trucks and grow up to be doctors, while little girls play with dolls and grow up to be housewives. Many men no longer feel that they must maintain a **macho**^⑨ attitude all the time, and many women no longer feel that they should be **meek**^⑩ and **obedient**^⑪. Changes like these do not occur overnight or even in a few years because they involve fundamental changes in attitudes and behavior. Will events in the 1980s continue to build upon the changes that have already taken place, or will we see new directions in the ways in which men and women view their roles?

Notes:

- ①dramatically 戏剧性的
- ②hoot off 轰走
- ③for one thing 首先
- ④bring up 教育,培养
- ⑤breast-feed 给…喂奶
- ⑥diaper 尿布
- ⑦sexual 性别的
- ⑧stereotype 陈规
- ⑨macho 有男子气概的
- ⑩meek 温顺的
- ⑪obedient 服从的

Short Answer Questions:

1. What is the best title for the passage?

2. What does the passage mainly discuss?
3. What is the topic sentence of Paragraph 2?
4. What is the topic sentence of Paragraph 3?
5. According to Paragraph 2 and Paragraph 3, what can men do?

Passage 2

About 70 million Americans are trying to lose weight. That is almost 1 out of every 3 people in the United States. Some people **go on diets**^①. This means they eat less of certain foods, especially fats and sugars. Other people exercise with special equipment, take diet pills, or even have surgery. Losing weight is hard work, and it can also cost a lot of money. So why do so many people in the United States want to lose weight?

Many people in the United States worry about not looking young and **attractive**^②. For many people, looking good also means being thin. Other people worry about their health. Many doctors say being **overweight**^③ is not healthy. But are Americans really fat?

Almost 30 million Americans weigh at least 20 percent more than their ideal weight. In fact, the United States is the most overweight country in the world.

Losing weight is hard work, but most people want to find a fast

and easy way to **take off**^④ **fat**^⑤. Bookstores sell lots of diet books. These books tell readers how to lose weight. Each year, dozens of new books like these are written. Each one promises to **get rid of**^⑥ fat.

Some people diet alone. They say dieting should be private. Other people think, "Misery loves company." They need other people to help them lose weight. Some people join weight-control clubs for this kind of help. One club like this is called Weight Watchers International. The group uses **psychology**^⑦ and special diet plans to help its members lose weight. In return, members pay Weight Watchers a fee.

Books, pills, diets, clubs, and special exercise equipment all **add up to**^⑧ a lot of money. In the United States, losing weight may mean losing money, too.

Notes:

- ①go on diets 进行规定的饮食;节食
- ②attractive 有吸引力的
- ③overweight 超重
- ④take off 去掉,减少
- ⑤fat 脂肪
- ⑥get rid of 除去
- ⑦psychology 心理学
- ⑧add up to 总计达到,意味着

Short Answer Questions:

1. What is the passage mainly about?



2. What is the percentage of Americans who are trying to lose weight?
3. What is the connection between looking good and being thin for most people in the United States?
4. What is Weight Watchers International?
5. Why do bookstores sell lots of diet books?

Passage 3

Disney World, Florida, is the biggest **amusement resort**^① in the world. It covers 24.4 thousand acres, and is twice the size of Manhattan. It was opened on October 1, 1971, five years after Walt Disney's death, and it is a larger, slightly more ambitious **version**^② of **Disneyland**^③ near Los Angeles.

Foreigners tend to **associate** Walt Disney **with**^④ Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, and with his other famous cartoon characters, Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and Pluto, or with his nature films, whose superb photography is spoiled, in the opinion of some, by the **vulgarity**^⑤ of the commentary and musical background.

There is very little that could be called vulgar in Disney World. It attracts people of most tastes and most income groups, and people of all ages, from toddlers to grandpas. There are two expensive hotels, a golf course, forest trails for horseback riding and rivers for



canoeing. But the central attraction of the resort is the Magic Kingdom.

Between the huge parking lots and the Magic Kingdom lies a broad artificial lake. In the distance rise the towers of Cinderella's Castle, which like every other building in the Kingdom is built of solid materials. Even getting to the Magic Kingdom is quite an adventure. You have a choice of transportation. You can either cross the lake on a **replica**^⑥ of a Mississippi paddle-wheeler, or you can glide around the shore in a streamlined monorail train.

When you reach the **terminal**^⑦, you walk straight into a little square which faces Main Street. Main Street is the late 19th century. There are modern shops inside the buildings, but all the **facades**^⑧ are of the period. There are hanging baskets full of red and white flowers, and there is no traffic except a horse-drawn streetcar and an ancient double-decker bus. Yet as you walk through the Magic Kingdom, you are actually walking on top of a network of underground roads. This is how the shops, restaurants and all the other material needs of the Magic Kingdom are invisibly supplied.

Notes:

①amusement resort 常去娱乐的地方

②version 变体

③Disneyland 迪斯尼乐园

④associate with 和...联想在一起

⑤vulgarity 粗俗

⑥replica 复制品

⑦terminal 终点

⑧facade (房屋)正面



Short Answer Questions:

1. When did Walt Disney die?
2. What is the main attraction of Disney World?
3. Is reaching the Magic Kingdom adventurous or dangerous?
4. Why is Disney World the most famous amusement resort?
5. What is the appropriate title for the passage?

Passage 4

The basic flag of the United States is one of the world's oldest national flags. Only the basic flags of Austria, Denmark, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Switzerland are older.

During the discovery and settlement of what is now the United States, the flags of various European nations were flown over the land, as symbols of possession. Later, in the Colonial and Revolutionary War periods, flags representing famous persons, places, and events were flown in the American Colonies.

The first official flag of the United States was created by Congress on June 14, 1777. It **consisted of**^① 13 alternated red and white stripes and 13 white stars in a field of blue, **representing**^② the 13 colonies that had declared their independence in 1776. Congress

adopted a new flag of 15 stars and 15 stripes in 1795, to give representation to the two new states admitted into the Union, Vermont and Kentucky.


By 1817, there were 20 states in the Union, and it became apparent that adding one stripe for each new state would destroy the shape of the flag. As a result, Congress in 1818 restored the original design of 13 stripes and provided that each state was to be represented by one star. In 1912 President William H. Taft made the first official **provision**^③ for the arrangement of the stars. He ordered that there be six even rows of eight stars each. Previously the arrangement of the stars had been left to the flag-maker's fancy.

The **evolution**^④ of the Stars and Stripes reflects the growth of the United States. After the admission of Hawaii into the Union in 1959, the flag was officially changed for the 26th time since its creation.

There are many government flags flown in the United States **in addition to**^⑤ the national flag. Among them are the President's and vice-president's flags and those of the Federal departments and some Federal agencies. Each state in the Union has an official flag. The United States Navy uses special flags for signaling.

Notes:

- ① consist of 由...组成
- ② represent 代表;体现
- ③ provision 规定
- ④ evolution 发展
- ⑤ in addition to 除...之外

- 
1. The basic flag of the United States is _____.
 - A. the oldest national flag in the world
 - B. one of the world's oldest flags
 - C. the most beautiful flag in the West
 - D. as old as the basic flags of some European nations
 2. Before the War of Independence the flags of various European nations flown over the land were symbols of _____.
 - A. self-rule
 - B. occupation
 - C. peace and friendship
 - D. independence
 3. The first official flag of the United States was adopted _____.
 - A. before the Independence War
 - B. right after the Independence War
 - C. when independence was declared in 1776
 - D. during the War of Independence which ended in 1783
 4. Why was the original design of 13 stripes restored in 1818?
Because _____.
 - A. too many stripes would destroy the shape of the flag
 - B. Congress insisted 13 is the best number
 - C. that was a decision President Taft had made
 - D. the American people suggested it
 5. Which of the following is true? _____.
 - A. All Federal departments and agencies have flags of their own
 - B. The newly-admitted state of Hawaii does not have an official flag
 - C. No other flags than the national flag and the President's flag are flown in the United States

D. The United States has a number of government flags

Passage 5

Reading to oneself is a modern activity which was almost unknown to the scholars of the classical and medieval worlds, while during the 15th century the term “reading” undoubtedly meant reading aloud. Only during the 19th century did silent reading become **commonplace**^①.

One should **be wary**, however, **of**^② assuming that silent reading came about simply because reading aloud is a distraction to others. Examination of factors related to the historical development of silent reading reveals that it became the usual mode of reading for most adult reading tasks mainly because the tasks themselves changed in character.

The last century saw a steady gradual increase in **literacy**^③, and thus in the number of readers. As readers increased so the number of **potential**^④ listeners declined, and thus there was some **reduction**^⑤ in the need to read aloud. As reading for the benefit of listeners grew less common, so came the **flourishing**^⑥ of reading as a private activity in such public places as libraries, railway carriages and offices, where reading aloud would cause distraction to other readers.

Towards the end of the century there was still considerable argument over whether books should be used for information or treated respectfully, and over whether the reading of materials such as newspapers was in some way mentally weakening. Indeed this argument remains with us still in education. However, whatever its

virtues, the old shared literacy culture had gone and was replaced by the **printed mass media**^⑦ on the one hand and by books and periodicals for a specialized readership on the other.

By the end of the century students were being recommended to adopt attitudes to books and to use skills in reading them which were inappropriate, if not impossible, for the oral reader. The social, cultural, and technological changes in the century had greatly altered what the term “reading” implied.

Notes:

- ①commonplace 平常的,普通的
- ②be wary of 提防;惟恐(wary 谨慎的;谨防的)
- ③literacy 识字,有文化
- ④potential 将来可能成为的;潜在的
- ⑤reduction 减少
- ⑥flourish 兴旺;处于旺盛状态
- ⑦printed mass media 刊印的大众传播媒介,指报刊杂志

1. What is the writer of this passage attempting to do? _____.
 - A. Explain how present-day reading habits developed
 - B. Change people's attitudes to reading
 - C. Show how reading methods have improved
 - D. Encourage the growth of reading
2. Why was reading aloud common before the 19th century? Because _____.
 - A. silent reading had not been discovered
 - B. there were few places available for private reading
 - C. few people could read for themselves
 - D. people relied on reading for entertainment